

Offered by Councilor Rob Consalvo, Ciommo, Connolly, Linehan, Turner, Flaherty, Feeney, LaMattina, Yoon, Ross, Tobin



# CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE

## RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TO IMPLEMENT A REGULAR LICENSE PLATE REISSUANCE AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

- WHEREAS,* License plates, validation stickers and inspection stickers provide a visual display of properly registered and legally insured motor vehicles in the Commonwealth; and,
- WHEREAS,* Motor vehicle registration generates nearly \$1 billion in revenues from fees for titles, registrations and tax collections from vehicle sales; and,
- WHEREAS,* The city of Boston has collected approximately \$91.5 million in revenues from motor vehicle excise taxes paid by motorists at the time of motor vehicle registration renewal in 2009; and,
- WHEREAS,* In 2010, the city of Boston projects to collect \$79.8 million in total revenues – a decrease of approximately \$12 million from 2009 – from motor vehicle registrations; and,
- WHEREAS,* A Council of State Government study indicated that 4-7% of U.S. motor vehicles are unregistered and uninsured. Registration avoidance threatens to not only undermine public safety, but also the economic viability of the state and its local governments; and,
- WHEREAS,* The Massachusetts Department of Revenue estimates that nearly 5% of vehicles are unregistered and a Massachusetts Inspector General's report indicates that 10-15% of vehicle registrations are non-compliant; and,
- WHEREAS,* The reissuance and replacement of license plates on a regular basis would enhance driver compliance with the motor vehicle process, would ensure the display of proper plates and stickers and promote greater insurance coverage; and,
- WHEREAS,* Currently, more than 35 states in the U.S. conduct a regular replacement or reissuance of motor vehicle license plates, including New York, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Maine; and,
- WHEREAS,* In uncertain economic times and declining excise tax revenues, it is critical to the city of Boston to seek out all sources of income while enforcing the existing laws and regulations. It is estimated that well over \$1 million in excise tax revenues are untapped and would be used to offset the city's current budget deficit; *THEREFORE BE IT*
- RESOLVED,* That the city of Boston recognizes the continued need to improve the quality of life for all citizens across the state and those residing in the city of Boston in particular. The Boston City Council calls on the State of Massachusetts to implement a regular license plate reissuance and replacement program. Such a program would make our citizens safer, more compliant with existing laws and generate much needed revenues for the state and its local governments during this time of fiscal adjustment.

Filed on: May 19, 2009